

dual earner couples, who struggle to find time to care for their sick children or their own illnesses. In addition, approximately 40 percent of the workforce will be caring for older parents by 2010. For these and many other reasons, this bill is the right policy.

The FMLA established the principle, and now the Family Leave Insurance Act puts it into practice and into reach for more Americans. Its passage will bring America closer to the world's standards, help our businesses, and protect our workforce. In the lives of millions of Americans, it will help reduce the dilemma of balancing work and family. Let us continue to work together: Government, business and employees need to continue this conversation and improve our policies for working families and individual employees who need paid leave. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, earlier today, Senator DODD and I introduced the Family Leave Insurance Act of 2007, which builds upon important protections established by the Family and Medical Leave Act, FMLA, of 1993.

Our legislation would provide 8 weeks of paid benefits to private and Federal employees who take leave for reasons permitted by the FMLA. These include a serious health condition; care for a critically ill child, spouse, or parent; and the birth or adoption of a child.

Benefits would be provided to workers based on their annual income level. As an example, those earning less than \$20,000 per year would receive 100 percent of their benefits, while those earning \$60,000 to \$97,000 would receive 40 percent. This scaled approach has two advantages: it will keep program costs low, and offer the greatest help to those who need it most.

In the past, many have expressed apprehension over the costs associated with family and medical leave. These concerns are valid, and steps must be taken to ensure neither employees nor employers are burdened by this or any similar program.

As introduced, this insurance fund would be financed by employees, employers, and the Federal Government. Employees would contribute 0.2 percent of their earnings, employers would match this percentage, and the Federal Government would pay any administrative expenses not covered by those payments. In truth, these costs are minimal for all involved. A worker who receives a \$1,000 paycheck would disburse just \$2 to receive full coverage.

While my support for this bill is not absolute, it does address an important shortcoming of the FMLA: employees who need leave often do not take time off because they simply cannot afford to do so. Senator DODD has rightly described this as a terrible choice for individuals—one which forces a decision between “the job they need and the family they love.” Those of us in the Senate must do everything we can to help hard-working American families, and this bill represents a significant first step in those efforts.

As the father of six children, I deeply understand the challenges families face following childbirth, in times of sickness, and when loved ones fall ill. In Alaska, the majority of parents hold full-time jobs outside the home, which often makes this pressure even more intense.

I commend Senator DODD for his continued leadership on this issue, and look forward to working with my Senate colleagues and leaders in the business community to improve this bill as it moves through the legislative process.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 248—HONORING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF DAME LOIS BROWNE EVANS, BERMUDA'S FIRST FEMALE BARRISTER AND ATTORNEY GENERAL, AND THE FIRST FEMALE OPPOSITION LEADER IN THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH

Mr. BROWN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 248

Whereas Dame Lois Browne Evans was born in 1927 in Bermuda, and attended the Central School and Middle Temple at London's Inns of Court in the United Kingdom;

Whereas, in June 1952, at the age of 26, Dame Lois Browne Evans was called to the London Bar, and the following December called to the Bermuda Bar and opened her own practice;

Whereas Dame Lois Browne Evans became Bermuda's first female barrister and went on to a distinguished career as a leading counsel;

Whereas Dame Lois Browne Evans was a lifelong advocate for the rights of workers and black Bermudians and a prominent member of the Progressive Labour Party (PLP);

Whereas Dame Lois Browne Evans was elected to Parliament in 1963 and became the first black female to serve in Parliament;

Whereas, in 1968, in Bermuda's first general election in which all adults were entitled to vote, Dame Lois Browne Evans was elected the PLP's Parliamentary Leader and became the first female Opposition Leader in the British Commonwealth;

Whereas Dame Lois Browne Evans held the position of Opposition Leader until 1972 and, in 1973, became Jamaica's Honorary Counsel in Bermuda, the first Bermudian to serve in this capacity;

Whereas in 1976 Dame Lois Browne Evans was again elected to Parliament and served as the Opposition Leader until 1985;

Whereas the PLP won its first election in 1998 and Dame Lois Browne Evans was appointed Minister of Legislative Affairs;

Whereas in 1999 Dame Lois Browne Evans became Bermuda's first elected Attorney General and first female Attorney General;

Whereas Dame Lois Browne Evans was Bermuda's longest serving Member of Parliament;

Whereas Dame Lois Browne Evans debated at the historic London and Bermuda Constitutional Conferences and served as a delegate to numerous international conferences in Africa, New Zealand, the United States, and the Caribbean;

Whereas Dame Lois Brown Evans was a member of the International Federation of

Women Lawyers and a founding member of the Bermuda Business and Professional Women's Club;

Whereas Dame Lois Browne Evans led an exceptional life in which she played a major role in the racial integration of Bermuda and advanced the cause of civil, human, and minority rights in Bermuda and throughout the world; and

Whereas Dame Lois Browne Evans passed away on May 29, 2007, at the age of 79: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its profound sympathy to the family of Dame Lois Browne Evans and the citizens of Bermuda on the passing of Dame Lois Browne Evans; and

(2) commends the exemplary lifetime achievements of Dame Lois Browne Evans, her commitment to public service, and the singular role she played as a true pioneer who forged the way ahead for women and minorities.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1820. Mr. BAYH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1704 proposed by Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BINGAMAN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SALAZAR, and Ms. SNOWE) to the amendment SA 1502 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill H.R. 6, to reduce our Nation's dependency on foreign oil by investing in clean, renewable, and alternative energy resources, promoting new emerging energy technologies, developing greater efficiency, and creating a Strategic Energy Efficiency and Renewables Reserve to invest in alternative energy, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1821. Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Ms. STABENOW) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1704 proposed by Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BINGAMAN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SALAZAR, and Ms. SNOWE) to the amendment SA 1502 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill H.R. 6, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1822. Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mr. DOMENICI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1704 proposed by Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BINGAMAN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SALAZAR, and Ms. SNOWE) to the amendment SA 1502 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill H.R. 6, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1823. Mr. ALEXANDER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1704 proposed by Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BINGAMAN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SALAZAR, and Ms. SNOWE) to the amendment SA 1502 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill H.R. 6, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1824. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1704 proposed by Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BINGAMAN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SALAZAR, and Ms. SNOWE) to the amendment SA 1502 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill H.R. 6, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1825. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1704 proposed by Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BINGAMAN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SALAZAR, and Ms. SNOWE) to the amendment SA 1502 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill H.R. 6, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.